

19th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you know, we are all facing extraordinary challenges at this time and the situation is placing pressure on all parts of society. Our staff have been doing all they can to keep our academy open, or partially open, since this crisis began and I would like to pay tribute to their remarkable commitment. They have been extraordinary and we will continue to play our part over the coming weeks.

As you may be aware, the Government made several very important decisions yesterday evening (18th March) about schools. There will be further detail to follow but I wanted to ensure you had as much information as possible as early as possible.

The first is that it has advised schools in England to close, except for certain groups of children, from this Friday afternoon (20th March) onwards as a further measure to prevent the spread of COVID-19. No date has been set for when schools will re-open for all students.

From Monday, this academy will continue to be open for the following groups of students:

- **Children whose parents are frontline workers** – the Government has said these would include NHS staff, police, school workers and supermarket delivery drivers. However, others will be in this category and we expect to hear more from the Government on this before the weekend.
- Those classed as what the Secretary of State described as “**vulnerable children**”. These include those who have a social worker assigned and those with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs).

For students in these groups, we have also been asked to remain open through the Easter holidays and we will do our best to achieve this. From Monday 23rd March 2020 and through this period, our academy will provide care and some education for these children.

As soon as I have more information on the above groups, I will share it with you. In preparation for this I attach a form that asks that you to identify if you fall into one of the above key worker groups. If you believe that your occupation MAY be highlighted in the extended list expected later today, please make us aware of your role so that we do not have to come back to you to collect this information.

Children who do not fall into the groups listed must remain at home with appropriate care. You will have no doubt seen that the Government have advised that children should not be left in the care of elderly relatives so we ask that you please bear this in mind to best protect our community. Our academy will remain open to Year 7, Year 9, Year 10, Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13 students up until Friday 20th March 2020 at our normal end of day time of 3pm.

The second key announcement is that tests and examinations will not take place this summer. For children and young people, who have worked so hard to prepare for their GCSEs or A levels, this may be upsetting, and we sympathise with them. At the same time, we understand the decision the Government has made and we are reassured that children's grades in GCSEs and A levels will be awarded on the basis of moderated assessment, in conjunction with the examination boards and Ofqual. This means that the hard work students have done will be rewarded. It may not feel quite the same, and nor is it, but they will receive grades that will progress them to the next stage of their lives.

We will continue to provide home learning resources for your child. Our online curriculum is now available on our website by following: Pupils – Learning Resources. (Please find the link here: <http://poolhayes.attrust.org.uk/learning-resources/>) Our online learning resources will be continually updated by our amazing team of staff to ensure the disruption to your child's education is as minimal as possible throughout this difficult time. For students who do not have internet access at home or if they do not have an electronic device in order to complete the work, we have also created 'Home Learning' booklets. If you need this resource, please collect from the academy on Friday 20th March 2020 from 3.30-4.30pm. If you are unable to make this time or if you have any further queries, please contact our academy email account on office@poolhayes.attrust.org.uk.

We are working quickly with our catering providers, and taking account of Government advice in order to continue to provide for any students identified as being entitled to Free School Meal students. We will release further details as soon as we are able.

In the meantime, I would once again like to take this opportunity to thank you wholeheartedly for your understanding and ongoing support in helping us to manage this unprecedented situation.

Please return the attached form by Friday 20th March at 9am to form tutors. Take Care.

Yours sincerely,

PHarris

Phillipa Harris

Principal

Pool Hayes Academy

Identification of students intending to continue to attend Pool Hayes Academy**(Please delete Yes/No where appropriate)**

Name of child/children		
Class/Year Group		
Are you classed as a key worker under the current definition? (NHS workers, Police, school worker, supermarket delivery driver)	Yes Name of employer:	No
If you believe you MAY work in a profession that will be identified in the full list of key workers, please provide the title of your role, and the name of your employer	Job title:	Employer:
Does your child have a social worker assigned to them?	Yes	No
Does your child have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP)?	Yes	No
If you have answered YES to any of the above, do you intend for your child to continue to attend the academy during this period of closure?	Yes	No
Is your child in receipt of Free School Meals?	Yes	No
Best contact number and email address to discuss the above if necessary	Telephone number:	Email:

Please be aware that proof of current employment may be required if you fall into a key worker category.

Any details relating to this will be communicated with the fuller list of key workers later today.

PLEASE RETURN ON FRIDAY 20TH MARCH 2020 BY 9AM TO FORM TUTORS.